Modernisation of Powerlooms

*195. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposed an out lay of Rs. 250 crore for the modernisation of powerlooms in the country during the Eighth Plan period ;

(b) whether Government have ascertained the grievances of the powerlooms industry in the country;

(c) if so, how much allocation would be made to each State Government for modernisation of powerlooms; and

(d) what is the extent to which the production by powerlooms is likely to be achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Approval of the Planning Commission on the VIIIth Five Year Plan proposal is still awaited.

(d) The proposed target of cloth production by the powerloom sector, at the terminal year of VIIIth Five Year Plan i.e. 1996-97 is 18,000 MN. SQ. MTRS.

Developments in Kabul

*196 SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any damage to the Indian Embassy buildings in Kabul and physical harm to the staff of the Embassy have been caused as a result of recent transfer of power in Afghanistan ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) There has been no damage to Indian Embassy buildings in Kabul apart from superficial bullet holes on the outer walls of some buildings and shattered glass due to gun and rocket fire. All personnel of the Indian Embassy are unharmed and safe.

High Court Benches in the Country

*197. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of High Court benches functioning in the country at present and their break-up, Statewise;

(b) what has been the main criteria of setting up of these benches in different States;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to establish more High Court benches in the country; and

(d) if so, what are the new proposals under consideration of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY) : (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) It has been decided to establish Benches of Gauhati High Court in the Capitals of the States of Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Proposal received from the Government of West Bengal and the Calcutta High Court for establishing a Bench of the High Court in North West Bengal is engaging the attention of the Government. Establishment of more High Court Benches may be considered, if and when proposals are received from the concerned State Governments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts.

Statement

Name of the State	Location of the Bench
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior and Indore
Maharashtra	Nagpur and Aurangabad
Bihar	Ranchi
Rajasthan	Jaipur
Goa	Panaji
Nagaland	Kohima
Mizoram	Aizwal
Manipur	Imphal

Initially High Courts were set up at Indore (with a bench at Gwalior), Nagpur & Jaipur. After reorganisation of States these High Courts/Bench were abolished and later on High Court benches were established at these places. The Chief Court at Avadh was amalgamated with the High Court at Allahabad and a permanent bench of the High Court was established at Lucknow by the U.P. High Courts Amalgamation Order, 1948.

The Bench at Ranchi was established for the tribal areas of Bihar after a proposal supported by the Chief Justice of Patna High Court, was received from the Government of Bihar, which was also supported by the Chief Justice of India.

The Bench at Panaji was established by way of replacing the Judicial Commissioner's Court which was established after liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu from the Portugese rule and its annexation with the Indian Union.

The Bench at Aurangabad was established after a proposal supported by the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court was received from the Government of Maharashtra; the proposal was also supported by the Chief Justice of India.

The Benches of Kohima, Aizwal and Imphal have been established, as there respective States of Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur have no separate High Courts of their own and are served by the High Court at Gauhati in Assam which is common for seven States of the North-Eastern Region.

Handicrafts Production in Rajasthan and its Exports

*198. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the handicrafts production in the country, Rajasthan has emerged as a prominent centre, not only for its traditional and rural oriented crafts but also for innovative designs and use of materials; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to boost its exports so as to earn major foreign exchange for the country considering that there is hardly any import content in the items which can be exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To strengthen the production base for exports of handicrafts from Rajasthan several programmes have been undertaken to provide design and technical assistance for product diversification and design improvement, intensive training for upgradation of skills in major export oriented crafts like carpets, hand printed textiles etc., an integrated development programme through